

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/TIA/INF.1

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ENGLISH ONLY

BACKGROUND PAPER PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/36 L, "TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS"

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 14 of its resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, invited the Secretary-General "to provide to the Conference on Disarmament all relevant information, including, inter alia, views submitted to him by Member States and information provided under the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, as well as on the work of the Disarmament Commission under its agenda item entitled 'Objective information on military matters'". By his letter dated 15 January 1992, addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament, the Secretary-General transmitted documents relevant to resolution 46/36 L (see page 6 of CD/1115).
2. Further to that information, the Secretariat is providing the present background paper.
3. The paper contains a list of documents, in chronological order, issued by the United Nations General Assembly and Disarmament Commission, relevant to the questions set out in paragraph 14 of resolution 46/36 L.

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4. The compilation is divided into five main sections, as follows:

- SECTION 1 : Reports of the Secretary-General containing replies received from Governments under the agenda item entitled "Reduction of Military Budgets: Military expenditures in standardized form reported by States" (20 May 1985 - 21 November 1991)
- SECTION 2 : Communications submitted by States under the agenda item entitled "Reduction of Military Budgets" (1 February 1985 - 25 October 1991)
- SECTION 3 : Reports of the Secretary-General containing replies from Governments under the agenda item entitled "General and complete disarmament: Objective information on military matters" (29 July 1986 - 29 October 1990)
- SECTION 4 : Reports of the Secretary-General containing replies from Governments under the agenda item entitled "General and complete disarmament: International arms transfers" (20 August 1990 - 9 September 1991)
- SECTION 5 : Extracts of the Reports of the Disarmament Commission, and documents submitted to the Commission relevant to items on its agenda, entitled: "Reduction of military budgets" and "Objective information on military matters" (1981-1991)

5. The source consulted for the compilation of the lists was the United Nations Bibliographic Information System (UNBIS).

6. All the documents are official documents of the United Nations General Assembly and Disarmament Commission and have already been distributed through normal distribution channels to all members of the United Nations, including all members of the Conference on Disarmament. The Secretariat has assembled, for the convenience of delegations, the texts of the documents listed, which may be consulted upon request to the officer-in-charge of the agenda item.

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

SECTION 1: Reports of the Secretary-General containing replies received from Governments under the agenda item entitled "Reduction of Military Budgets: Military expenditures in standardized form reported by States" (1985-1991)*

Note:

Since 1974, five reports of experts on the subject of Reduction of Military Budgets have been transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General. They are:

1. Reduction of the Military Budgets of States Permanent Members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and Utilization of Part of the Funds Thus Saved to Provide Assistance to Developing Countries, A/9770/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.I.10).
2. Reduction of Military Budgets: Measurement and international reporting of military expenditures, A/31/222/Rev.1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.I.6).
3. Reduction of Military Budgets: International reporting of military expenditures, A/35/479 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.9).
4. Reduction of Military Budgets - Refinement of international reporting and comparison of military expenditures, A/S-12/7 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.IX.4).
5. Reduction of Military Budgets: Construction of military prices indexes and purchasing-power parities for comparison of military expenditures, A/40/421 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.2).

* For the purpose of section 1, the documents listed cover the period from 1985 until the end of 1991 to reflect the views of States after the issuance of the latest report submitted by the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a Group of Experts, on the "Reduction of Military Budgets: Construction of military prices indexes and purchasing-power parities for comparison of military expenditures" (A/40/421).

SECTION 1 (continued)

Document No.	Country
	<u>Reduction of Military Budgets: Military expenditures in standardized form reported by States: Reports of the Secretary-General*</u>
A/40/313, 20 May 1985	Replies received from: Argentina Austria Chile France Lesotho Mauritius Netherlands Romania Saint Lucia Samoa Sweden Turkey United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/40/313/Add.1, 24 September 1985	Replies received from: Australia Belgium Canada Denmark Finland Germany, Federal Republic of New Zealand Norway Portugal United States of America
A/40/313/Add.2, 23 October 1985	Reply received from: Canada
A/40/313/Add.3, 18 December 1985	Reply received from: Ireland
A/41/622, 25 September 1986	Replies received from: Argentina Australia Belgium Chile

* The Reports of the Secretary-General listed have been submitted in pursuant to resolutions 39/64 B of 12 December 1984 and 40/91 B of 12 December 1985.

SECTION 1 (continued)

Document No.	Country
A/41/622, 25 September 1986 ...(cont'd)	Denmark Finland Germany, Federal Republic of Italy Japan Netherlands Norway Portugal Romania Spain Sweden Turkey
A/41/622/Add.1, 7 November 1986	Replies received from: Austria New Zealand United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/41/622/Add.2, 2 December 1986	Reply received from: United States of America
A/42/573/, 1 October 1987	Replies received from: Argentina Austria Belgium Canada Denmark El Salvador Finland France Germany, Federal Republic of Greece Ireland Lebanon Malaysia Netherlands New Zealand Norway Panama Romania Spain Sweden Thailand Turkey United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America
A/42/573/Add.1, 31 December 1987	Reply received from: Japan

SECTION 1 (continued)

Document No.	Country
A/43/567, 21 September 1988	Replies received from: Argentina Australia Austria Belgium Chile Denmark Finland France Germany, Federal Republic of Greece Ireland Israel Italy Japan Netherlands New Zealand Norway Philippines Portugal Romania Saint Lucia Spain Sweden Thailand Turkey United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Replies received from Governments not using the reporting instrument: Hungary Samoa
A/43/567/Add.1, 17 November 1988	Replies received from: Italy United States of America
A/43/567/Add.2, 9 December 1988	Reply received from: Canada
A/44/422, 16 August 1989	Replies received from: Argentina Austria Canada Finland

SECTION 1 (continued)

Document No.	Country
A/44/422, 16 August 1989 (cont'd)	France Germany, Federal Republic of Greece Israel Netherlands Norway Portugal Spain Sweden Turkey United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/44/422/Add.1, 10 October 1989	Replies received from: Australia Barbados Colombia Italy Luxembourg New Zealand United States of America
A/INF/45/5, 18 October 1990	Replies received from: Argentina Austria Belgium Bulgaria Canada Denmark Finland France German Democratic Republic Germany, Federal Republic of Greece Hungary Israel Italy Malaysia Malta Netherlands New Zealand Norway Poland Portugal
A/INF/45/5/Add.1, 1 November 1990	Replies received from: Barbados Union of Soviet Socialist Republics United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America

SECTION 1 (continued)

Document No.	Country
A/46/311, 22 July 1991	Information received from: Austria Finland Liechtenstein Panama
A/46/311/Add.1, 22 October 1991	Information received from: Bolivia Thailand
A/46/381, 18 September 1991	Replies received from: Argentina Australia Austria Brazil Bulgaria Canada Chile Colombia Czechoslovakia Germany Greece Israel Liechtenstein Luxembourg Malta Netherlands Poland Romania Spain Sweden Thailand Yugoslavia
A/46/381/Add.1, 22 October 1991	Replies received from: Barbados Denmark Finland Hungary Italy Japan Luxembourg New Zealand Norway Portugal Romania United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/46/381/Add.2, 21 November 1991	Replies received from: Japan Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

SECTION 2: Communications submitted by States under the agenda item entitled
"Reduction of Military Budgets" (1985-1991)*

Document No.	Title and Country
A/C.1/40/7	Letter dated 25 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declaration issued on 23 October 1985 at Sofia by the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization
A/40/114	Letter dated 30 January 1985 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Delhi Declaration adopted and issued at New Delhi on 28 January 1985 by the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania
A/40/130	Letter dated 15 February 1985 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a message by His Excellency Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, to the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania of 7 February 1985
A/40/544	Letter dated 12 August 1985 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Lima Declaration (Lima, 29 July 1985)

* For the purpose of section 2, the documents listed cover the period from 1985 to the end of 1991 to reflect the communications received from States after the issuance of the 1985 report of the Group of Experts on the "Reduction of Military Budgets: Construction of military prices indexes and purchasing-power parities for comparison of military expenditures" (A/40/421).

SECTION 2 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/40/672	Letter dated 19 September 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Communiqué of the Sixteenth South Pacific Forum held at Rarotonga, Cook Islands, from 5 to 6 August 1985
A/40/761	Letter dated 14 October 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Lomé Declaration and Programme of Action of the Regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa
A/40/825	Letter dated 30 October 1985 from the representatives of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the joint message dated 24 October 1985 addressed to the President of the United States of America and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union by the Heads of State or Government of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania
A/41/118	Letter dated 27 January 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General enclosing a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the memorandum on international economic security of States - a major condition for the improvement of international economic relations (Memorandum by the Government of the USSR)

SECTION 2 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/41/185	Letter dated 3 March 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the section entitled "Basic aims and directions of the Party's foreign-policy strategy" of the political report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) to the Twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, presented on 25 February 1986 by M.S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee
A/41/230 and Corr.1	Letter dated 21 March 1986 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the speech by Premier Zhao Ziyang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese people's rally for world peace on 21 March 1986
A/41/276	Letter dated 10 April 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Declaration of the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania on the International Year of Peace, adopted on 4 April 1986
A/41/341 and Corr.1	Letter dated 15 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries held at New Delhi from 16 to 19 April 1986
A/41/356	Letter dated 1 May 1986 from the Permanent Representative of the German Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the documents of the Eleventh Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED), which was held in Berlin from 17 to 21 April 1986

SECTION 2 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/41/744	Letter dated 23 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the communiqué of the meeting of the Committee of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty which was held in Bucharest on 14 and 15 October 1986
A/41/745	Letter dated 23 October 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a letter from his Excellency Mr. Ioan Totu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, together with an appeal from the Third Congress of Workers of the Socialist Republic of Romania in favour of nuclear and general disarmament, for peace, held at Bucharest from 4 to 6 September 1986
A/42/228	Letter dated 14 April 1987 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of a proposal from the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty to the member States of NATO on the question of a moratorium on the increase in military expenditures
A/42/352	Note verbale dated 16 June 1987 from the Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the VII Summit Conference of the Heads of State of the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, held at Maputo on 21 and 22 May 1987

SECTION 2 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/42/681	Letter dated 23 October 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a copy of the final communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 7 October 1987
A/43/276	Letter dated 31 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the texts of the communiqué and the appeal issued by the Committee of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty at its Sofia meeting, on 29 and 30 March 1988
A/43/667	Letter dated 29 September 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a copy of the final documents adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Nicosia from 5 to 10 September 1988
A/43/709	Letter dated 6 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final communiqué adopted by the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Non-Aligned Countries to the forty-third session of the General Assembly on 3 October 1988
A/C.1/44/7	Letter dated 8 November 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the communiqué of the Meeting of the Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty which was held at Warsaw on 26 and 27 October 1989

SECTION 2 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/44/235	Letter dated 18 April 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the final communiqué of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Riyadh from 13 to 16 March 1989
A/44/409	Letter dated 19 July 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final documents of the Ministerial meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, from 17 to 19 May 1989
A/44/551	Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final documents of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade, from 4 to 7 September 1989
A/45/413	Letter dated 13 August 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, E.A. Shevardnadze, on the limitation of international sales and transfers of conventional weapons
A/C.1/46/4	Letter dated 2 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the declaration by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, in connection with the initiative of President George Bush announced on 27 September 1991

SECTION 2 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/C.1/46/6	Letter dated 7 October 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Albania in connection with the initiative of President George Bush announced on 27 September 1991
A/46/598	Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the resolutions adopted by the 86th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

SECTION 3: General and Complete Disarmament: Objective information on
military matters: Reports of the Secretary-General (1986-1990)*

Document No.	Country
A/41/466, 29 July 1986	Replies received from: Australia Botswana Denmark Germany, Federal Republic of Italy Netherlands Norway Sweden United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland United States of America
A/41/466/Add.1, 14 October 1986	Reply received from: Finland
A/42/435, 5 August 1987	Replies received from: Bulgaria Denmark Sweden United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/S-15/7, 26 May 1988	Replies received from: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics Germany, Federal Republic of (on behalf of the States Members of the European Community)
A/S-15/7, Add.1, 14 June 1988	Replies received from: German Democratic Republic Hungary Poland
A/S-15/7, Add.2, 21 June 1988	Reply received from: United States of America

* The reports of the Secretary-General on this item have been submitted in pursuant to resolutions 40/94 K of 12 December 1985, 42/38 I of 30 November 1987, 43/75 G of 7 December 1988, 44/116 E of 15 December 1989.

SECTION 3 (continued)

Document No.	Country
A/44/396, 18 July 1989	Replies received from: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Czechoslovakia Finland France (on behalf of the Twelve States members of the European Community) German Democratic Republic Hungary Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
A/44/396/Add.1, 18 September 1989	Reply received from: Bulgaria
A/44/396/Add.2, 22 December 1989	Reply received from: Sweden
A/45/354 and Corr.1, 31 July 1990	Information received from: Austria Bulgaria Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Canada Czechoslovakia Finland German Democratic Republic Sweden Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/45/354/Add.1, 29 October 1990	Information received from: Poland

SECTION 4: General and Complete Disarmament: International arms transfers
Reports of the Secretary-General (1990) *

Note: On 9 September 1991, the Secretary-General submitted a report under this item pursuant to resolution 43/75, on the study he was requested to carry out, with the assistance of governmental experts, on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms (A/46/301).

Document No.	Country
A/45/363, 20 August 1990	Information received from: Canada China Czechoslovakia German Democratic Republic Mali Mexico Pakistan
A/45/363/Add.1, 25 October 1990	Information received from: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

* The report of the Secretary-General on this item was submitted in pursuant to resolutions 43/75 I and 44/116 N entitled "International arms transfers".

SECTION 5: Extracts of the Reports of the Disarmament Commission and documents submitted to the Commission relevant to items on its agenda entitled "Reduction of Military Budgets" and "Objective information on military matters" (1981-1991)

Document No.	Title and Country
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/36/42), 1981	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 3 (A/S-12/3), 1982	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/38/42), 1983	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/39/42), 1984	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/40/42), 1985	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/41/42), 1986	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/42/42), 1987	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 3 (A/S-15/3), 1988	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/44/42), 1989	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/45/42), 1990	Report of the Disarmament Commission
SUPPLEMENT No. 42 (A/46/42), 1991	Report of the Disarmament Commission
	<u>Reduction of military budgets:</u> <u>Reports of the Secretary-General *</u>
A/CN.10/23, 24 April 1981	Replies received from Governments: Argentina Austria Denmark Finland France Greece Netherlands Romania United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Sweden Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
A/CN.10/23/Add.1, 6 May 1981	Replies received from: Belgium Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Germany, Federal Republic of Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

* The Report of the Secretary-General was submitted pursuant to resolution 35/142 A of 12 December 1980.

SECTION 5 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/CN.10/23/Add.2, 11 May 1981	Replies received from: Bulgaria Cuba Poland
A/CN.10/23/Add.3, 22 May 1981	Replies received from: Canada Japan
A/CN.10/23/Add.4, 1 June 1981	Reply received from : Italy
A/CN.10/23/Add.5, 12 June 1981	Reply received from: Rwanda
A/CN.10/23/Add.6, 24 July 1981	Reply received from: Bangladesh
A/CN.10/24, 30 April 1981 and Corr.1	Proposals by member States, resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and studies undertaken within the United Nations framework concerning the question of reduction of military budgets: Background paper prepared by the Secretariat
A/CN.10/64	Letter dated 11 May 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission transmitting the text of the proposal by the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty addressed to the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) concerning negotiations on the freezing and the reduction of military expenditures
A/CN.10/118, 12 May 1989	Substantive consideration of issues related to conventional disarmament: Question of international arms transfer: Working paper submitted by China
A/CN.10/125, 15 May 1989	Substantive consideration of issues related to conventional disarmament: International arms transfers: Working paper submitted by Costa Rica

SECTION 5 (continued)

Document No.	Title and Country
A/CN.10/140, 8 May 1990	Objective information on military matters: Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/CN.10/142, 8 May 1990	Objective information on military matters: Objectives, principles and mechanisms of openness in the military sphere: Working paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
A/CN.10/142/Add.1, 25 April 1991	Objective information on military matters: Objectives, principles and mechanisms of openness in the military sphere: Working paper submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
A/CN.10/144, 22 April 1991	Objective information on military matters: Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/CN.10/144/Rev.1, 25 April 1991	Objective information on military matters: Working paper submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
A/CN.10/146	Objective information on military matters: Letter dated 25 April 1991 from the head of the Chinese delegation addressed to the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission transmitting a working paper entitled China's Basic Position on Objective Information on Military Matters
A/CN.10/160, 3 May 1991	Objective information on military matters: Working paper submitted the Netherlands
A/CN.10/161, 3 May 1991	Objective information on military matters: Working paper submitted by Australia
A/CN.10/1991/CRP.3, 10 May 1991	Report of Working Group I on agenda item 4 regarding objective information on military matters

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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BACKGROUND PAPER PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 46/36 L, "TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS"

ADDENDUM

Note by the Secretariat

As requested at the informal meeting of the Conference devoted to the agenda item on "Transparency in armaments", hereto attached is the text of the "Guidelines and Recommendations on objective information on military matters", adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its substantive session in May 1992.*

* Extracted from A/CN.10/1992/CRP.3, Annex.

ANNEX

Guidelines and recommendations for objective information
on military matters

1. In order to promote increased openness and transparency on military matters and to assist greater comprehension of the dangers of the arms race in all its aspects and of destabilizing accumulations of arms inconsistent with legitimate security needs and to contribute to faster progress towards the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament (resolution S-10/2); taking into account the Guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures and for the implementation of such measures on a global or regional level, as adopted by the Commission at its 1988 substantive session, and relevant General Assembly resolutions, has developed the following guidelines for objective information on military matters.

Objectives

2. Objective information on military matters, though not an end in itself, may, through a dynamic process over time, serve among others the following purposes:

- To encourage openness and transparency on military matters in order to build confidence, enhance mutual trust and contribute to the relaxation of tension and to promote specific disarmament agreements and other concrete disarmament measures;
- To facilitate the process of arms limitation, reduction and elimination, as well as reduction of armed forces, and the verification of compliance with obligations assumed in these areas;
- To assist States in determining the level of forces and armaments sufficient for an adequate defensive capability;
- To increase the predictability of military activities and to avert crises and reduce the risk of military conflict, whether intentional or unintentional, by heading off dangerous errors or misperceptions which could generate or precipitate them;
- To promote greater public understanding and discussion of disarmament and security-related issues;

thereby leading to strengthened international peace and security, global as well as regional, and providing undiminished security of all States at the lowest possible level of armaments.

Principles

3. The Charter of the United Nations must be strictly observed. The purposes and principles of the Charter enshrined in Articles 1 and 2 are particularly relevant in the context of the provision of objective information on military matters.

4. Actions of States relating to objective information on military matters should be governed by the following:

- All States have the responsibility to provide objective information on military matters and the right of access to such information;
- The provision of objective information on military matters should be based on the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, which includes not only armed intervention but also other forms of interference;
- Objective information on military matters should be made accessible to the public of all States to the maximum degree possible consistent with national security and the provisions of related agreements;
- Bearing in mind the duty of all States to provide objective information on military matters, the States with the largest and most sophisticated arsenals have a special responsibility in providing information;
- Measures to promote openness and transparency in military matters, at both the global and the regional level, should take into account the legitimate security needs of States and the principle of undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments;
- The provision of objective information on military matters, in the regional context, should take account of the specific characteristics, degree of stability and political climate in each particular region in relation to the practical level of information necessary to promote openness and transparency, with the aim of contributing to confidence and stability;
- Any field of military activity, component of armed forces of States or their armaments, whether on their own territories, territories of other States or elsewhere, including outer space or the high seas, could be considered for the provision of objective information on military matters, including on nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and conventional weapons, as appropriate;
- States should promote, through consultations on their own initiative, practical measures on the exchange of objective information on military matters, in light of their specific situation and political, military and security conditions;

- The priorities in disarmament established by the General Assembly in paragraphs 45 and 46 of the Final Document of its Tenth Special Session should be duly taken into consideration, whenever applicable measures relating to objective information on military matters are taken;
- The information to be provided under agreements or arrangements for the exchange of objective information on military matters should be consistent in volume, range and quality with the objectives identified by the parties. The data should be accurate, comparable, and provided on a reciprocal basis and may, if deemed necessary by the parties, be subject to verification;
- Exchange of information in the context of disarmament agreements or measures should be designed to meet the specific provisions of such accords;
- Information obtained under specific agreements may be restricted to the participants;
- Measures to promote openness and transparency may be unilateral, bilateral or multilateral, subregional, regional or global, and may use the potential of the United Nations;
- Such measures should be carried out in harmony with other efforts to build confidence, to promote disarmament and to strengthen security;
- As an important confidence-building measure, the provision of objective information on military matters can both promote, and in its turn be promoted by, improvement in the political climate among States concerned.

Scope

5. The potential for increase of openness and transparency through provision or exchange of objective information on military matters in all its aspects is as wide as the whole military field. The scope of any particular exercise will depend on the objective pursued and should be defined in accordance with the foregoing principles through consultations on an equal footing by parties concerned and can be adjusted, as necessary, upon their agreement.

Mechanisms

6. The foregoing objectives should be pursued in accordance with the foregoing principles through a range of mechanisms to promote the provision of objective information on military matters in a comprehensive and equitable manner, both within the United Nations system and outside it.

7. The United Nations should promote the provision of objective information on military matters inter alia through:

- Relevant guidelines and other recommendations developed by the Disarmament Commission (UNDC);
- Collection and publication of information on military budgets provided by Member States on the basis of its standardized reporting system or possible future improvement thereof;
- Maintenance of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;
- United Nations studies carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolutions;
- Related activities of the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament;
- Research performed under the aegis of the Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR);
- Operation of appropriate databases in accordance with the provisions of relevant resolutions and provision of advisory services, if requested by Member States.

In addition, if requested by the parties and subject to the availability of appropriate resources, the United Nations can assist in data collection and dissemination in the context of multilateral treaties on arms limitation and disarmament, as is already the case with respect to the Biological Weapons Convention.

8. The Conference on Disarmament can play an important role in promoting the provision of objective information on military matters through measures agreed upon by its members, in accordance with its rules of procedure.

9. Unilateral measures as well as bilateral, subregional, regional and other multilateral arrangements should also be utilized for the provision of objective information on military matters.

Recommendations

10. In the light of the foregoing objectives and principles, and with the aim of enhancing the security of all States, the following recommendations are offered for consideration.

11. The United Nations Standardized System of Reporting on Military Expenditures, which has attracted a growing number of participating States, should continue in operation and could be further improved as a global basis for the provision of objectively and comprehensively comparable information on such expenditures.

12. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms should be operated and further developed on the basis of the relevant resolution of the General Assembly and the process set out therein, which is commended to the Member States.
13. States should, in the meantime, take practical measures, on the basis of existing agreements, where applicable, and within appropriate forums, to increase openness and transparency in military matters through the provision of objective information, including on nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, the transfer of high technology with military applications, imports and exports of conventional arms, military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies.
14. Individual States and groups of States should consider formulating arrangements, freely arrived at between themselves, to promote the direct flow and exchange of information.
15. The General Assembly should consider the establishment of groups of experts to study ways and means of ensuring greater comparability of nationally supplied data. The objective of greater comparability could also be promoted through the exchange of information and cooperation among interested Member States on statistical methods.
